

STATEMENT

By Assoc. Prof. Emilia Petrova Georgieva, PhD,
College Deputy Director, "Career Development, Quality and Accreditation"
Medical College - Varna to
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna

Regarding: procedure for the defense of a dissertation and the awarding of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Katya Genova Mollova, a doctoral student in an independent form of study in the doctoral program "Health Care Management" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, Professional field 7.4 Public health, in the Sliven Branch of the Medical University - Varna on the topic: "The impact of interactive technologies on the formation of professional competences in students of Rehabilitation therapist specialty".

Research supervisor: Associate Professor Silvia Ivanova Filkova, PhD

1. Descriptive Characteristics of the Dissertation Work

The dissertation work of Katya Genova Mollova contains 144 standard pages, structured in four main chapters according to the requirements, including: Introduction, Literature review, Purpose, tasks, material, research methodology, Results and analysis of the study related to students and lecturers about interactive methods and means applied in practical classes, etc. and data from a comparative analysis of the results of the conducted didactic experiment, Interactive model, Conclusion, Outcomes, Recommendations, Contributions, Bibliography of the dissertation work. It is illustrated with 28 figures, 26 tables and 5 appendices. 175 literary sources are cited, of which 111 are in Cyrillic and 64 are in Latin.

2. Evaluation of the Relevance of the Topic

The continuous updating of pedagogical approaches in obtaining the knowledge and skills of the modern rehabilitator is a necessity in the future pedagogical practice, which puts the focus on professional competencies. Interactive methods occupy a central place in the training of future rehabilitation therapists, involving interactions, collaboration and problem solving. It has been proven that through appropriate methods it is possible to create the potential to improve the educational experience of students by engaging, motivating and assisting in the development of various skills and competencies. These methods create an educational environment where students can build their knowledge through active participation and application of skills and competencies in an environment close to the real world.

3. Literature review

The PhD student makes an analytical overview related to organizational forms and methods for practical training and realization of students. In a logical sequence, Katya Mollova examines the role of the rehabilitation therapist in the recovery process of the patient. The activity of the

rehabilitation therapist is directly related to the assessment, planning and implementation of rehabilitation programs aimed at restoring or improving the functional abilities of people with various health problems or disabilities. The possibilities for realization of the rehabilitation therapist were considered in view of the growth of the need for rehabilitation services. Outlines the main characteristics of traditional and alternative training. It highlights the indicators of the effectiveness of the learning process through the use of control in various forms. Control and assessment of knowledge are an integral part of the overall learning process. They are an inherent regularity of teaching and learning. An analysis of the quality of the educational process in the medical college was made, linked to the precise organization of the control of the students' knowledge, skills and habits, from the selection of adequate and effective assessment procedures. The experience and knowledge of the doctoral student regarding the modern requirements for the training of the rehabilitator highlights the need for the application of the competency-oriented approach in the course of the training. It is a new educational paradigm that focuses not only on acquiring knowledge and skills, but also on developing attitudes, attitudes and values in students, which forms the necessary professional competences. The structured literature review shows the broad competences of the PhD student in the field of the considered problem.

4. Research methodology

The established goal and tasks are specifically formulated and reflect precisely the research work carried out by Katya Genova Mollova. The PhD student uses a wide range of methods adequate to achieve the goal. Three hypotheses are presented. The object, the subject, and the scope of the study are well described. The structure and content of the developed toolkit are subject to the specifics of the collected information from the respective group of respondents. The methods are selected and described in detail. Documentary, statistical and sociological methods were used. A high degree of correspondence was achieved between the eight tasks set, the number of surveyed respondents and the obtained data and results. The logical units of the study are indicated. The research toolkit was developed by the candidate and includes four questionnaires aimed at investigating the application of interactive technologies among students, a survey among lecturers and mentors regarding the place of interactive methods in education and their relationship to building professional competencies in the future rehabilitation therapist. An practical training interactive model has been developed and implemented, which includes a combination of appropriately selected, tailored to the specifics of the academic disciplines, interactive methods and technical training tools - clinical case study, discussion in a "small group", brainstorming, simulation role-playing game with shift of the roles and a multimedia presentation with 85 students from the first, second and third year of the specialty "Rehabilitation therapist" at Stara Zagora Medical College. The design, stages and location of the study are described in detail. The criteria for inclusion and exclusion of persons in the study are outlined. The methodology of the dissertation work includes traditional and original methods specially developed for the study, meets modern requirements, prepares the doctoral student for the research work, which guarantees the reliability of the obtained results.

5. Results and Discussion

The results of Katya Mollova's own research are presented in the third chapter of the dissertation. They are grouped in two thematic sections following the chronology of the tasks and applied methods. The contribution of the conducted survey among students (n=220), lecturers (n=30), and mentors (n=58) is determined by its scale: it includes 308 respondents, divided into three groups. The study was conducted at the Medical College of Thrace University - Stara Zagora, Medical College - Varna and Medical College - Plovdiv in the specialty "Rehabilitation therapist". The socio-demographic characteristics of the study participants were analyzed. The results obtained from the students' answers provide original scientific information about their training related to their preference to apply interactive methods in their practical training and indicate, as preferred role-playing games, discussion and multimedia presentation, as they contribute to their better preparation. The factors influencing the interactive learning process, according to the lecturers of the three medical colleges, are outlined. The lecturers believe that the inclusion of interactive methods and means in the practical training of rehabilitation therapists will improve the educational process and increase the academic motivation of students. Data from a survey of lecturers' opinions outline the main factors influencing the interactive learning process: periodic improvement of the material and technical base, with the aim of facilitating the interactive process, increasing the qualifications of trainers, working in small groups, correct selection of methods and tools, which leads to a better understanding of the learning material and its more complete assimilation and application in practice. The comparative analysis of the results of the conducted didactic experiment among the students of the "Rehabilitation therapist" specialty from Medical College - Stara Zagora, highlights the advantages of interactive learning. They believe that interactive methods create conditions close to the real environment, which boosts their confidence when working in clinical practice with a real patient. Regarding the academic motivation after the conducted methodology, a significant positive growth can be seen in the answers of the students, which is a clear indicator that the interactive methods embedded in the model stimulate the students' interest in the learning process and encourage their motivation to acquire knowledge and practical skills. Based on the review of the literature on interactive learning and the results obtained in the fourth chapter, an interactive model and methodology for conducting a didactic experiment is proposed. The practical training interactive model is aimed at enriching, confirming and supplementing the knowledge, skills and competences of student rehabilitation therapists, which are included in the curricula of the profiling disciplines of kinesiotherapy and therapeutic massage. Its main goal is to create an educational approach that includes modern interactive learning technologies. By using this model, the learning process leaves the traditional structure of teaching and learning and offers more flexible interactive methods that meet the specifics of the relevant discipline and modern requirements for the learning process. These are maximum activity, interaction and approach to the real clinical environment and an emphasis on the formation of professional competences in the conditions of the practical training classes. On the basis of the conclusions and results of the conducted research, theoretical and practical-applied contributions have been formulated. The developed model based on interactive methods and tools, applicable in

the practical training of students from the "Rehabilitation therapist" specialty, has a theoretical-applied character. Based on the model, a training methodology was developed in the educational and practical classes in kinesiotherapy and therapeutic massage, as well as the didactic experiment performed to establish the effectiveness of the applied interactive model. The formulated proposals and contributions of the dissertation work were made on the basis of the own data from the scientific study. The dissertation is written in good language, precise in terms of terminology.

The content and quality of the abstract meets the requirements of the Regulations of the Medical University - Varna, faithfully and adequately reflecting the main results of the study.

The dissertation work is the personal work of the doctoral student, and I take the formulated contributions and obtained results as her personal credit.

In conclusion, I believe that Katya Genova Mollova's dissertation work, on the topic of: "The impact of interactive technologies on the formation of professional competences in students of Rehabilitation therapist specialty" is of high scientific and practical value, which will contribute to the modernization of the educational process through priority inclusion of modern technologies for teaching and learning, which will support the application of theoretical knowledge in practice, facilitating their professional training and contributing to the formation of professional competencies and skills for communication and teamwork, creativity and independent decision-making. Based on the overall evaluation of the documentation provided to me, I believe that Katya Genova Mollova fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna.

I give my **positive vote** for awarding Katya Genova Mollova an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, in professional field 7.4 Public Health and Research major "Health Care Management".

18.01.2024

Prepared the statement:

/Assoc. Prof. Emilia Petrova Georgieva, PhD/

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